

It is noted that claim 12 is included in both Groups I and II; that claim 16 is included in both Groups I and IV; that cancelled claim 4 is included in Group II; and that claim 14 is not included in any of Groups I-IV. Based on the descriptions given of the subject matter of each group, it appears that claims 12 and 16 were intended to be in Groups I and IV, respectively, and that claim 14 was omitted from Group II. Accordingly, it is assumed that Group I contains claims 8, 10, 12, 15, 17, and 18 and that Group II contains claims 9 and 14.

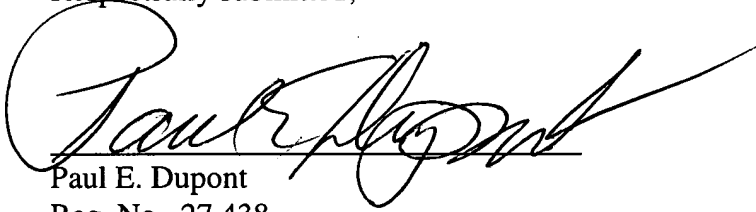
The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed and reconsideration thereof is requested. The compounds of Group II are selected quaternary ammonium salts of the compounds of Group I. Group III is directed to a process for preparing the compounds of both Groups I and II, and Group IV relates to compositions containing the compounds of Groups I and II and the use thereof. It is submitted therefore that the claims of Groups I-IV are directed to different aspects of a single inventive concept and should be examined together.

Nevertheless, in order that this response be complete, Applicants hereby elect Examiner's Group I claims for examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

8/16/04
Address:
Sanofi-Synthelabo Inc.
9 Great Valley Parkway
P.O. Box 3026
Malvern, PA 19355
Tele: (610) 889-6338
Fax: (610) 889-8799


Paul E. Dupont
Reg. No. 27,438